

Adolescent's Awareness Towards Contraceptives



Home Science

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ABSTRACT

Girls are the core of human dynamics only healthy female can make socio-economic upliftment of the country. Adolescent girls are in reproductive age and are future mothers, their awareness towards family welfare programme is significant. Therefore it is necessary to have health concern information for the understanding of dimensions and magnitude of awareness towards contraceptives among reproductive age group. A sample of 341 randomly selected adolescent girls of Sagar city, Madhya Pradesh, were surveyed. 95.3 percent girls have heard about contraceptives, 77.7 percent girls are aware of female contraceptive device. 75.6 percent girls agreed that purpose of using contraceptives is to delay first conception.

INTRODUCTION

Demographically, India is a young country today. As more than 31 percent of the population of India is a young population between the ages of 10-24 years constituting almost 315 million, and 22 percent are adolescents (aged 10-19 years). Some adolescents and young people have greater access to education and information and the ability to make well informed choices about their lives, while many others have poor or no access to information. In India, still early marriages, early pregnancy, poor access to information and services related to reproductive and sexual health, poor life skills, are some of the challenges faced by the adolescents and young people

In most of the world, family planning programs, have had great success in slowing population growth, yet in many countries, these programmes tend to reach older woman often after they had desired number of children, even as family planners encourage woman to plan their family size and adequately space births, the youngest married couples are often over looked. (Allaudin et al., 1999).

As many as 40 percent of all young women (aged 15-19 years) in India are already married. 17 percent of all adolescent females (aged 13-19 years) are already mothers or are pregnant with their first child. (Jejeebhoy, 1996). A review shows that 15-30 per cent of adolescent boys and up to 10 per cent of girls in India were sexually active before marriage (Jejeebhoy and Sebastian 2003).

With reference to the mentioned studies, the awareness of adolescent towards contraceptives is significant.

SAMPLE: 341 randomly selected school girls of Sagar city, Madhya Pradesh, India are the sample for present study. The relevant data on 341 Girls comprising 165 from English medium school and 176 from Hindi medium were selected by purposive sampling from selected school but the sample size of each school under study is different on the basis of their above said categories in order to make the sample a representative one.

METHOD: For recording information, a detailed structured but simple questionnaire was distributed among 341 randomly selected **unmarried** school girls of Sagar city. The questionnaire comprises questions related to contraceptives. Collected data were tabulated analysed with the help of statistical techniques.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Women only can practice reproductive rights when they have proper knowledge of contraceptives, their use, purpose and common belief associated with contraceptives. The study focuses on these issues among youth. **Table 1** reveals that 95.3 percent girls have heard about contraceptives, 4.6 percent students have not yet heard about it. Regarding knowledge of contraceptive methods, 237 girls i.e. 69.0 percent has knowledge of permanent method i.e. sterilization. It is good to notice that 77.7 percent girls are aware of the female contraceptive device

(IUD 3.8 percent copper T 43.1 percent and Tablets 30.7 percent. 44.8 percent girls have knowledge of male contraceptive (condoms). (**Table 1**)

In **English medium** girls 98.7 percent have heard about contraceptives, 1.2 percent students have not yet heard about it. Regarding knowledge of contraceptive methods, 84.8 percent have knowledge of permanent method i.e. sterilization. The majority of girls ie 84.8 percent girls are aware of the female contraceptive device (IUD 5.4 percent copper T 47.8 percent and Tablets 31.5 percent), 56.3 percent girls have knowledge of male contraceptive (condoms). (**Table 1**)

In **Hindi medium** girls 92.0 percent have heard about contraceptives, 7.9 percent students have not yet heard about it. $\chi^2 = 8.657$ is significant at 0.01 level. Regarding knowledge of contraceptive methods, 55.7 percent have knowledge of permanent method i.e. sterilization. The majority of girls ie 75.2 percent girls is aware of the female contraceptive device (IUD 3.2 percent copper T 54.4 percent and Tablets 42.4 percent). $\chi^2 = 1.91$ is non significant at 0.05 level. 34.03 percent girls have knowledge of male contraceptive (condoms). $\chi^2 = 7.11$ is significant at 0.01 level $p = 0.0076$ (**Table 1**).

TABLE 1 : AWARENESS TOWARDS CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

Total girls	Ever heard about contraceptive		Knowledge of contraceptive method								
			Permanent contraceptive method				Temporary Female contraceptive method			Male contraceptive method	
	No	Yes	Total response	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Total response	IUD	Copper T	Oral pill	Condoms	
EMS (165)	2	163	140	93	47	140	9	79	52	93	
percent	1.2	98.7	84.8	56.3	28.4	84.8	5.4	47.8	31.5	56.3	
HMS (176)	14	162	97	73	24	125	4	68	53	60	
percent	7.9	92.0	55.1	75.2	24.7	71.0	3.2	54.4	42.4	34.0	
TOTAL (341)	16	325	237	166	71	265	13	147	205	153	
percent	4.6	95.3	69.0	48.6	20.8	77.7	3.8	43.1	30.7	44.8	
χ^2 Value of EMS & HMS	$\chi^2 = 8.657$ $p < 0.01$		$\chi^2 = 7.802$ $p < 0.01$		$\chi^2 = 2.12$ $p > 0.05$		$\chi^2 = 1.91$ $p > 0.05$			$\chi^2 = 7.11$ $p < 0.01$	

EMS – English medium school, HMS- Hindi medium school

Overall knowledge about contraceptives amongst students was found to be low, similar to other studies of **Dixit et al (2009) & Mercado (1985)**.

Table 2 & 3 exhibits the awareness of girls towards purpose & precaution of contraceptive's use opinion of girls are significant. 75.6 per cent students agreed that purpose of contraceptive is to postpone first conception. $X^2 = 17.0$ is significant at 0.01 level. The majority of girls i.e. 91.0 percent agreed contraceptive should be used to space children. The $X^2 1.81$ is non significantly different in awareness level at 0.05 $p = 0.405$. India's social & cultural Scenario clearly indicates the male dominance at all stages of the reproductive process besides the burden of birth control, which is placed on women 68.6 percent girls agree that the use of contraceptive is responsibility of the female partner whereas 76.0 percent girls mentioned that precaution to use the contraceptive is the responsibility of the male partner.

In **English medium** girls 80.9 percent students agreed that purpose of contraceptive is to postpone first conception, 88.9 percent girls agreed that contraceptive should be used to space children. 66.8 percent girls agree that the use of contraceptive is the responsibility of the female partner whereas 85.2 percent girls mentioned that precaution to use the contraceptive is the responsibility of the male partner. (**Table 2 & 3**)

In **Hindi medium** girls 70.3 percent students agreed that purpose of contraceptive is to postpone first conception, 93.2 percent girls agreed that contraceptive should be used to space children. 70.3 percent girls agree that the use of contraceptive is responsibility of female partner whereas 66.6 percent girls mentioned that precaution to use the contraceptive is responsibility of the male partner. (**Table 2 & 3**).

Review of a study shows 56percent students agreed that purpose of contraceptive is to postpone the first conception majority of girls i.e. 91.2percent agreed contraceptive should be used to space children. 62.4percent girls agree that the use of contraceptive is responsibility of female partner whereas 67.2percent girls mentioned that precaution to use the contraceptive is responsibility of the male partner. **Nema & Sharma (2009)**.

TABLE 2 : PURPOSE OF CONTRACEPTIVE USE

Total girls	Aware girls	To postpone first conception			To space children		
		Agreed	Disagreed	No response	Agreed	Disagreed	No response
EMS (165)	163	132	18	13	145	13	5
percent	98.7	80.9	11.0	7.9	88.9	7.9	3.0
HMS (176)	162	114	44	4	151	8	3
percent	92.0	70.3	27.1	2.2	93.2	4.9	1.8
TOTAL (341)	325	146	62	17	296	21	8
percent	95.3	75.6	19.0	4.9	91.0	6.4	2.3
X^2 Value of EMS & HMS		$X^2 = 17.0 p > 0.01$			$X^2 = 1.81 p < 0.05$		

EMS – English medium school, HMS- Hindi medium school

TABLE 3 : OPINION REGARDING PRECAUTION OF CONTRACEPTIVE USE

Total girls	Aware girls	Opinion regarding precaution of contraceptive use					
		Responsibility of contraceptive use is only of female partner			Responsibility of contraceptive use is only of male partner		
		Agreed	Disagreed	No response	Agreed	Disagreed	No response
EMS (165)	163	109	51	3	139	19	5
percent	98.7	66.8	31.2	1.8	85.2	11.6	3.0
HMS (176)	162	114	43	5	108	47	7
percent	92.0	70.3	26.5	3.0	66.6	29.0	4.3

TOTAL (341)	325	223	94	8	247	66	12
percent	95.3	68.6	28.9	2.4	76.0	20.3	5.3
X^2 Value of EMS & HMS		$X^2 = 1.29 p < 0.05$			$X^2 = 16.1 p > 0.01$		

EMS – English medium school, HMS- Hindi medium school

Table 4 shows the myth & common belief associated with the use of contraceptives. 58.1percent girls mentioned that contraceptives cannot be used while breastfeeding, 37.2 percent girls accepted that contraceptives may be used during breastfeeding and 4.6 percent girls have not responded. 39.0 percent girls accepted that the use of contraceptive can cause undesirable effects on physical beauty 55.0 percent girls mentioned that there is no ill effect of contraceptive on physical beauty, and 5.8 percent girls have not responded..

59.5 per cent of **English medium** girls mentioned that contraceptives cannot be used while breastfeeding, 32.5 percent girls accepted that contraceptives may be used during breastfeeding and 7.9 percent girls have not responded. 41.0 percent girls accepted that the use of contraceptive can cause undesirable effects on physical beauty 47.2 percent girls mentioned that there is no ill effect of contraceptive on physical beauty, and 11.6 percent girls have not responded. (**Table 4**).

56.7 percent of **Hindi medium** girls mentioned that contraceptives cannot be used while breastfeeding, 41.9 percent girls accepted that contraceptives may be used during breastfeeding and 1.2 percent girls have not responded. $X^2 10.1$ ($p 0.007$) significant at 0.01 level shows the difference in common belief regarding contraceptive use. 37.0 percent girls accepted that the use of contraceptive could cause undesirable effects on physical beauty 62.9 percent girls mentioned that there is no ill effect of contraceptive on physical beauty. (**Table 4**) $X^2 = 22.9$ ($p 0.000$) is significant at 0.01 level.

In the study of **Nema & Sharma (2009)** it is found that 41.6percent adolescent college going girls knew that contraceptives can not be used while breast feeding 16.8percent girls accepted that the use of contraceptive can cause undesirable effects on physical beauty 60.8percent girls mentioned that there is no ill effect of contraceptive on physical beauty.

TABLE 4 : MYTH REGARDING USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES

Total girls	Girls aware	Contraceptives can be used during breast feeding			Use of contraceptives may cause undesirable effect on physical beauty		
		Yes	No	No response	Yes	No	No response
EMS (165)	163	53	97	13	67	77	19
percent	98.7	32.5	59.5	7.9	41.0	47.2	11.6
HMS (176)	162	68	92	2	60	102	0
percent	92.0	41.9	56.7	1.2	37.0	62.9	0
TOTAL (341)	325	121	189	15	127	179	19
percent	95.3	37.2	58.1	4.6	39.0	55.0	5.8
X^2 Value of EMS & HMS		$X^2 = 10.1 p < 0.01$			$X^2 = 22.9 p < 0.01$		

EMS – English medium school, HMS- Hindi medium school

CONCLUSION

The age at which women begin or stop child-bearing, the intervals between births, the total number of pregnancies and the socio cultural and economic circumstances in which women live all influence maternal morbidity and mortality.(IPCD DRAFT)

In India 50 percent of girls get married much before the age of maturity. In this respect premarital counseling is necessary for girls to avoid problems of reproductions health like unwanted

pregnancy and abortion. Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. Various studies based on National Family Health Survey NFHS-I data show that even after controlling for the effects of other factors, education remained a key factor influencing contraceptive use (Rutherford et al., 1996).

Advocacy for delay in age at marriage to ensure optimum health and nutrition

Status is suggested. Marriages after the legal age would help in reducing the incidence of pregnancy loss, which otherwise is higher amongst the adolescents. There is a need to increase correct and complete knowledge about contraceptives especially spacing methods among young people.

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